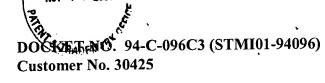


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

KUEI-WU HUANG ET AL

Serial No.

09/517,987

Filed

March 3, 2000

For

METHOD OF FORMING PLANARIZED STRUCTURES

IN AN INTEGRATED CIRCUIT

Group No.

2812

Examiner

R. Booth

BOX DAC

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 2327 Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

PETITION TO ACCORD FILING DATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.181

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.181, Applicants respectfully request that the enclosed Continued Prosecution Application and related document be accorded a filing date of November 19, 2001 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10(a).

The enclosed Express Mail envelope attached to this Petition, and the items therein, were deposited by the undersigned, personally, with the United States Postal Service on November 19, 2001. A copy of the Express Mail label bearing a "date in" notation of 11-19-01 is attached hereto, together with a copy of the Express Mail receipt bearing a date stamp of 11-19-01. The Express Mail envelope was returned to the undersigned's office due, as indicated by Express Mail label, to

SERIAL NO. 09/517,987 DOCKET NO. 94-C-096C3 PATENT

the temporary suspension by the U.S. Postal Service of Express Mail service to zip codes 202XX-205XX. The Express Mail envelope and the contents therein as returned by the U.S. Postal Service are attached hereto, unopened.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a filing date of November 19, 2001 be accorded the documents within the attached Express Mail envelope.

Date: 1/-27 -01

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